

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-7 have been finally rejected in the light of the prior art. Claims 1-7 remain in the application.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the final rejection and reconsideration in view of the following remarks. As will be discussed in detail below, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bolsworth et al. (US 5,393,116). This rejection is traversed.

The applicant respectfully submits that Bolsworth et al. fails to disclose each and every element of the pending claims, and therefore fails to anticipate the pending claims.

Claim 1 requires that the vehicle seat have "a guide peg secured to the rigid plate." In the structure disclosed by Bolsworth et al., the guide peg (68) is secured to the back (8) not to the backing plate (32). Further, the device as claimed requires that "the control piece is pivotally mounted on the folding portion of the back." In the structure disclosed by Bolsworth et al., the control piece (70) and the cam plate (50) are mounted to the backing plate 32. For these and other reasons, Bolsworth et al. fails to disclose all the elements of claim 1. The complex locking mechanism of Bolsworth et al. thus requires the control piece (70) and the cam plate (50) to be positioned very accurately relative to the seat back, thereby complicating assembly of the locking mechanism on the vehicle seat. Therefore the final rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Bolsworth et al. in view of JP- 59-34940. This rejection is traversed.

As noted above, Bolsworth et al. discloses a very complex adjustment and locking mechanism having different structure than that required by the present claims. As noted regarding the anticipation rejection, there is no suggestion of the simple locking and control mechanism of the present invention. JP-59-34940 does not remove this inherent deficiency and it would not have been obvious to combine the very different Bolsworth et al. and the JP-5934940 mechanisms. The structure of the Japanese publication cited by the examiner does not appear from the drawings to function as a guide surface. Rather this structure seems to be

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In light of the foregoing, the prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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